

preparedness, so they can protect their citizens, communicate with each other, and work with the Federal Government during any type of emergency, from earthquakes to hurricanes to terrorist attacks.

The legislation starts by authorizing the Emergency Management Performance Grants Program, EMPG. The EMPG program provides broad base grants to ensure that States and localities have adequate, coordinated and up-to-date plans to respond to all-hazards emergencies.

In my bill, eligibility for all project grants is linked to their inclusion in these emergency plans. This will help ensure that projects will be vetted, remain a priority, and fit in with an overall plan of preparedness.

Next, the bill authorizes the State Homeland Security Grant Program, SHSGP, which awards block grants to States based on the risk of natural and man-made disasters. These grant funds buy the materials and supplies States need according to their emergency plans.

The bill also authorizes the Metropolitan Medical Response System, MMRS, to give regions the tools they need to respond to major medical emergencies caused by either natural disasters or a terrorist attack.

Finally, we authorize the Urban Area Security Initiative, UASI, to give the added resources which are specifically needed for larger cities to respond to terrorism. Approval of UASI grants, like all of the grants in H.R. 5910, is tied to the inclusion of projects in State and local emergency plans.

Under my bill, all States would receive a base of preparedness funding. This would guarantee the Federal Government an able partner in every State to coordinate preparedness activities. Additional resources would

then be made available to address the unique risk of natural and man-made disasters that are posed to each area.

This Federal and regional coordination is exactly what emergency managers have been calling for. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5910 and put all-hazard preparedness first for all Americans.

HONORING MR. JAMES J. PADILLA
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT FROM FORD MOTOR
COMPANY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friend, Mr. James J. Padilla, as he retires from a rewarding career with Ford Motor Company, where he served as President and Chief Operating Officer.

Born in Detroit, Mr. Padilla earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in chemical engineering, as well as a master's degree in economics all from the University of Detroit. Mr. Padilla started his career with Ford Motor Company in 1966 as a quality control engineer. Ten years later, he accepted the first of what would be many managerial positions he would hold during the balance of his tenure with Ford.

On his way to becoming the President and Chief Operating Officer of Ford Motor Company, Mr. Padilla served as Manufacturing Operations Manager for several of Ford's most successful lines of cars. He is also largely to thank for the dramatic turnaround of the Jag-

uar line, for which he served as Director of Engineering and Manufacturing.

As Ford's Executive Vice President of the America's, Mr. Padilla spearheaded Ford Motor Company's North American recovery, vastly improving the quality and innovation of this division's products.

In 2004, Mr. Padilla became the President and Chief Operating Officer of Ford Motor Company and took his seat on the Company's Board of Directors. In his final post with Ford, Mr. Padilla was responsible for the global automotive business, overseeing marketing, manufacturing, engineering and other operations in more than 200 markets with over 327,000 employees.

Over the course of Mr. Padilla's illustrious career, he has received numerous honors including Mexico's Ohtli Award, the Society of Plastics Engineers 2004 Executive Leadership Award, and the Society of Automotive Engineers' Manufacturing Leadership Award. Mr. Padilla is also a member of the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Conference Hall of Fame. In 2003, Mr. Padilla was honored by the Gabriel Richards Historical Society for his outstanding vision and leadership toward the revitalization of Detroit and the surrounding communities.

As James J. Padilla enters his retirement years, I wish him and his wife, Alice, the best and I sincerely hope that he can enjoy a relaxing and rewarding future. I thank him for everything he has done for Ford Motor Company and the State of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I would like you to join me and all of my colleagues in honoring James J. Padilla for his leadership, dedication, and drive over the course of his 40 years of loyal service with Ford Motor Company.